

In The United States Patent and Trademark Office

- Serial No.: U.S.S.N. 09/992,072  
Inventor: Peter Norton (nmi)  
For: Seat Belt Tension Sensor  
Filed: November 5, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 2855  
Examiner: Max Noori  
Date: December 5, 2002

FAX RECEIVED

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AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2002  
please amend the above-identified application as follows. Marked up  
versions of the amended abstract and claims are provided hereinafter.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

ABSTRACT

A seat belt tension sensor has an anchor and a sensor responsive to a moving arm force responder. The moving arm force responder is spring sheet metal bent to form a base for receiving force and one or two arms that the received force causes to be urged to move relative to the arm sensor. The arm sensor responds to the arm or arms by generating an electric signal indicating belt tension. A cross member of the anchor spans an opening in the anchor. An edge of the cross member engages the base of the moving arm force responder and is shaped to provide low friction when the base flexes. In a preferred embodiment, the arm sensor comprises a capacitance sensor responsive to the capacitance between two capacitor plates and two arms of a force responder. In a second preferred embodiment, the arm sensor includes a magnetic field sensor.